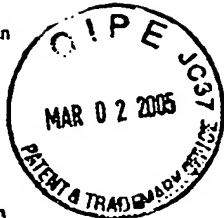


I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited in the United States Postal Services as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to:

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Attorney for Applicants

Date: 28 February 2005



AF

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No.: 10/706,548  
Applicant(s): Spano, et al.  
Filed: 12 November 2003  
Title: METHOD OF OPERATING A DISPENSING CABINET  
Art Unit: 3653  
Examiner: Michael E. Butler

Docket No.: DB000972-001

TRANSMITTAL LETTER

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office action mailed on 1 December, 2004 for the above-captioned application, enclosed is the following:

- Response and Amendment Under Rule 116

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any underpayment or credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account No. 20-0888. A copy of this transmittal letter is enclosed.

A return postcard is also enclosed. Please date stamp and mail the postcard in order to acknowledge receipt of this correspondence.

Respectfully submitted,

Edward L. Pencoske  
Reg. No. 29,688  
THORP, REED & ARMSTRONG  
One Oxford Centre, 14<sup>th</sup> Fl.  
301 Grant St.  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15219-1425  
(412) 394-7789  
Attorneys for Applicants

Dated: 28 February 2005